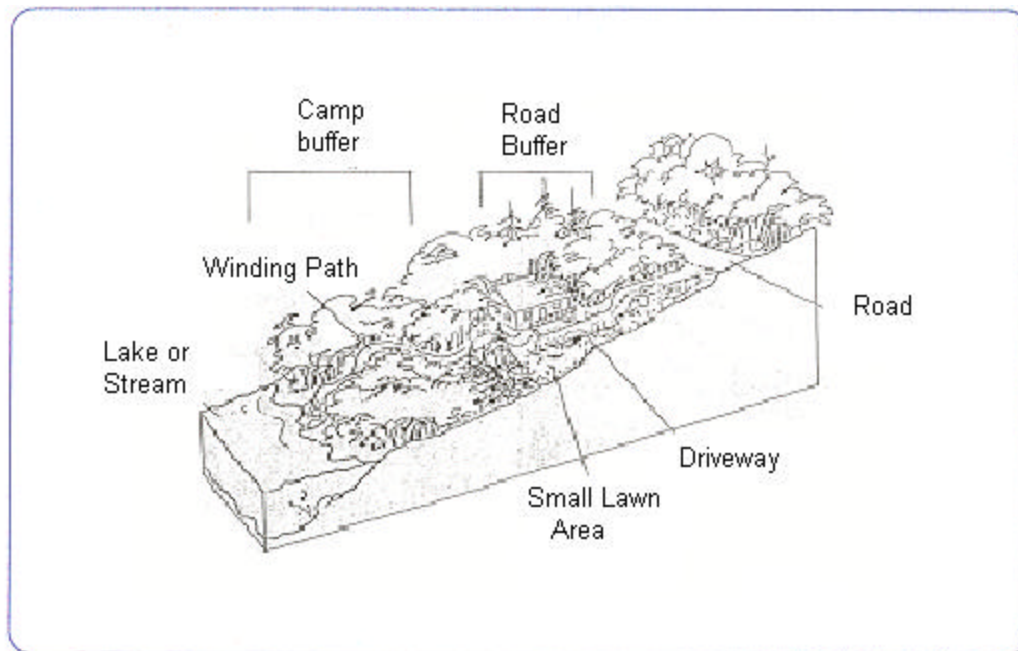


BUFFERS



Protect buffers between disturbed soils and downhill waterbodies so to remove sediments from your construction site's runoff. Buffers are also desirable for soil conservation and to protect wildlife habitat. The need for mowing and maintenance is also reduced when natural buffers are maintained instead of lawns. A buffer is effective only where water can sheet flow through it.

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Leave the area in its natural vegetative cover until construction is ready to start.
2. Establish and protect the buffer prior to any soil disturbance. Locate the buffer downgradient of the disturbance, along the contours, and within 150 feet of the disturbed area.
3. Use existing vegetation rather than replanting.
4. Maintain as big as a buffer as possible. The minimum width of the buffer is 25 feet, increased proportionately for slopes longer than 150 feet.
5. Do not allow any construction within the buffer area.
6. Contact the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) for the needed widths of buffers in unorganized areas and the local CEO for additional ordinance requirements.

MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Do not remove vegetation or trees other than dead plants and debris from the buffer.
- ◆ Maintain a specific and stable foot path and do not walk unnecessarily within the buffer.

See *Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs* (3/2003) Section C-5 for more information on buffers.